

- 2 -

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

- C1
1. (currently amended) A method of injection molding a ~~thin plastic part~~ spacer comprising a perimeter having defined by an inner ~~outer~~ peripheral edge and an inner peripheral edge and having a surface with a sealing member extending therefrom, wherein the inner peripheral edge defines a space disposed inwardly from the outer peripheral edge, and a mesh extending across the space and coupled to the inner peripheral edge, including the steps of (a) providing a mold having a cavity and a core, the cavity having a first interior surface and a first continuous ridge depending from the first interior surface, the core having a second interior surface and a second continuous ridge depending from the second interior surface ~~contiguous~~ and aligned with the first continuous ridge, wherein at least one of the first and second interior surfaces includes an impression configured to effect formation of the sealing member on the spacer; (b) disposing positioning a mesh having opposite sides between the cavity and the core such that, when the core and the cavity are clamped together, the mesh does not interfere with the formation of the sealing member upon injection of plastic material into the mold; and (c) pinching opposite sides of the mesh between the ridges to form a flow barrier.
  2. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the perimeter and the mesh are comprised of different materials.
  3. (original) The method as claimed in claim 2 wherein the perimeter is comprised of materials selected from the group consisting of thermoplastic vulcanizates, thermoplastic olefins, and fluoropolymers.
  4. (original) The method as claimed in claim 2 wherein the perimeter is comprised of a thermoplastic vulcanizate.

C

- 3 -

5. (original) The method as claimed in claim 3 wherein the mesh is comprised of materials selected from the group consisting of polypropylene and polyethylene.
6. (original) The method as claimed in claim 4 wherein the mesh is comprised of materials selected from the group consisting of polypropylene and polyethylene.
7. (original) The method as claimed in claim 6 wherein the mesh is not slack.
8. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the cavity further includes hanging pins depending from the interior surface, and additionally comprising, in step (b), suspending the mesh from the hanging pins.
9. (new) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the mesh is positioned such that, when the core and the cavity are clamped together, the mesh does not extend across the impressions.
- C<sup>1</sup> 10. (new) The method as claimed in claim 9 wherein the perimeter and the mesh are comprised of different materials.
11. (new) The method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the perimeter is comprised of materials selected from the group consisting of thermoplastic vulcanizates, thermoplastic olefins, and fluoropolymers.
12. (new) The method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the perimeter is comprised of a thermoplastic vulcanizate.
13. (new) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the mesh is comprised of materials selected from the group consisting of polypropylene and polyethylene.
14. (new) The method as claimed in claim 12 wherein the mesh is comprised of materials selected from the group consisting of polypropylene and polyethylene.
15. (new) The method as claimed in claim 14 wherein the mesh is not slack.